



AETC News Clips

Luke AFB, Ariz.



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Police urge parents to be vigilant

By Rusty Bradshaw, Independent Newspapers

Surprise resident Kraig Robert Clark received a life sentence in prison after he admitted in June to killing Apache Junction teenager Jamie Jarosik last year.

Mr. Clark's admission came during a "free talk" June 29 following his trial on charges of child molestation and sexual conduct with a minor, according to reports released by the Surprise Police Department last week. Mr. Clark gave up his appeal rights on various accusations of child molestation and sexual conduct with a minor, charges for which he was found guilty at trial.

He pled guilty to first-degree murder in Superior Court July 15 and was sentenced to "natural life" in prison, according to a report on the "free talk" written by Surprise Detective Randy Rody. Mr. Clark also agreed to waive all appeal rights on the sex and murder charges.

A Surprise parent coming forward with information regarding a possible child molestation by Mr. Clark was a key to the investigation, according to Officer Marci Darrow of the Surprise Police Department.

"This is not just a family thing and it won't go away on its own," she said.

Parent involvement is an important preventative step, according Detective Rody and Officer Darrow. "Talk to your kids, be a 'pain in the tail'," Detective Rody said. "Mr. Clark told us there were kids he was attracted to but he dismissed them because of their parents' involvement."

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The suspect was acquainted with all his victims and their parents, according to Detective Rody. "He never forcibly abducted any of his victims," he added.

Mr. Clark had a history of child molestation in other areas of the state, according to the detective, including charges in Mohave County that were dropped when the victim was killed in a boating accident.

He was a former law enforcement officer, having worked with the Tempe Police Department and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office. During the Surprise investigation, he was employed as a security guard at Luke Air Force Base.

"There were up to four victims who lived in Surprise during our investigation," Detective Rody said. "This was a much bigger picture than we thought it was. He has done this many times before but has never been prosecuted."

Officer Darrow said one of the most important signs of a potential problem is a child spending "a lot of time" with an adult, especially sleeping overnight at the adult's home.

Parents should not be afraid to ask too many questions, and to talk to their children about their sexuality, Detective Rody said.

"Parents should talk to their kids about good touching and bad touching," he added. "Mr. Clark told us that talking to kids about their sexuality was one of the ways he gained their trust."

Officer Darrow also urged parents to follow their instincts.

"If something seems weird, it probably is," she said.

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When approached by their child with a potential problem, a parent's reaction is critical, according to Officer Darrow. "It is important that you listen to them, and don't get angry or over sensitive about it," she said. After hearing the child out, the officers stressed the next step is to call the police.

Mr. Clark was arrested at the Montana/Canada border Aug. 25, 2004, in connection with the molestation charges while he was trying to flee the country. He was indicted on 24 counts Oct. 19 by a Maricopa County Grand Jury.

During the course of the investigation, police learned he admitted to his young victims that he had killed a youngster early in 2004.

"Initially, we discredited what we were hearing from the victims about the homicide because Mr. Clark was a very good manipulator and would use things like this to control his victims," Detective Rody said.

While police were "just beginning to put together" more credibility to the victims statements concerning the killing shortly before the "free talk," it was not until Mr. Clark's admission they were certain about the homicide, Detective Rody said.

Mr. Jarosik, 13, was strangled by Mr. Clark at the suspect's home, 12123 W. Bell Road, at around 5 a.m. Feb. 19, 2004. Mr. Clark described how he wrapped his arm around the teen's neck, tightened it then rolled over on top of him until he was dead.

The suspect then dismembered the body and took it to the desert for disposal, burning then burying the remains.

Mr. Clark had known the teen before he ran away from home Feb. 2, 2004, at which time Mr. Jarosik was "taken in" by the suspect. The teen later left Mr. Clark's home and

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was staying at "an unknown location" but then began asking to stay with Mr. Clark again.

Surprise police began investigating the case Aug. 11 when a woman reported her 16-year-old son had been "contacted sexually" by Mr. Clark. The subsequent investigation showed that several other teenage boys were being molested by the suspect.

Detective Rody praised the support of the Phoenix Police Department, which was brought into the investigation because of that agency's experience in dealing with such cases.

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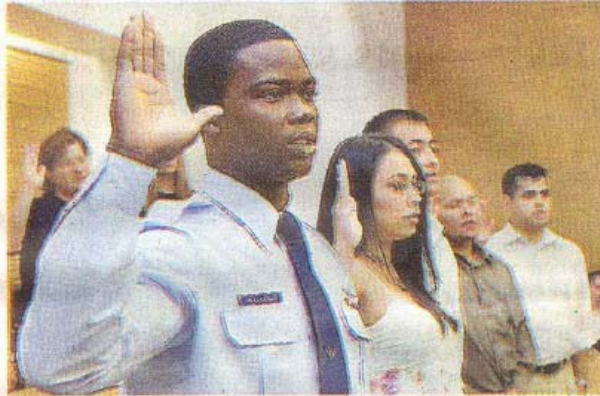


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JOHN SEVERSON/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Six immigrants who are current or past members of the U.S. military take the Oath of Allegiance on Friday in Phoenix.

New citizens have been serving this nation already

By Daniel González
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Nearly 100 immigrants from around the world raised their right hands and became new citizens at a naturalization ceremony Friday in Phoenix, swearing to "bear arms on behalf of the United States" if necessary.

But some of those taking the Oath of Allegiance have fulfilled that promise.

Phoenix resident Jorge Mor-

fin, 24, a Mexico native, fought in Iraq with the Marines.

Valley resident Lorenzo Rodriguez, 21, also from Mexico, is in the Army and spent eight months in Afghanistan.

And Babajide Wale-Aremu, 22, a native of Nigeria, is a member of the Air Force stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale.

In all, six present and past members of the U.S. armed

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Immigrants serving in the military pledge allegiance to U.S.

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forces became naturalized citizens Friday, the largest group of immigrants to take the oath in Phoenix since new rules and laws made it easier for foreign-born members of the military to become U.S. citizens.

"I've always felt like this was my country," said Morfin, now part of the inactive reserves. But "now I feel completely whole, part of this country."

Morfin came to the United States from Colima, Mexico when he was 4 and joined the Marines after graduating from Maya High School in Glendale. In April 2003, he took part in the U.S. invasion of Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein from power. Later that year, his Marine unit was sent to Liberia as part of a U.S. mission to support West

African peacekeepers after the bloody ouster of President Charles Taylor.

U.S. District Judge Stephen McNamee, who presided over the weekly naturalization ceremony at the Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse, praised the five men and one woman, asking them to stand for a special applause and then to introduce themselves.

"Our friends in the military have made sacrifices and continue to do so," McNamee said.

The other three foreign-born service members who became citizens Friday were Valley resident Erika Roberts-Bejarano, 20, a native of Mexico serving in the Army and stationed in Germany; Peoria resident Oscar Sandoval, 31, a native of Mexico serving in the Navy; and Luis Alberto Ramirez, a native of the Dominican

Republic serving in the Marines and stationed in Yuma. From February to June 2003, Ramirez served in Kuwait and Iraq.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have cast a spotlight on immigrants fighting and dying for the United States even though they weren't born here and can't vote unless they become citizens.

At least 74 foreign-born members of the U.S. military have died since the conflicts began: 71 in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense.

There are 27,395 immigrants on active duty in the military. There are 40,000 including reserves, according to the Pentagon and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. In 2002, President Bush signed an executive order allowing immi-

grants who enlisted after Sept. 11, 2001, to immediately become eligible for citizenship, rather than having to wait the usual three to five years. Only legal immigrants who are permanent residents are eligible to join the military.

Since then, 19,790 service members have become naturalized citizens, including 730 naturalized while stationed overseas under a new rule that for the first time allows troops to attend naturalization ceremonies at military bases, embassies and consulates abroad, according to Citizenship and Immigration Services spokesman Christopher Bentley.

In Phoenix, 34 foreign-born service members have become naturalized citizens since Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year, compared with 24 all of last year, said Al Gall-

mann, acting district director for Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Wale-Aremu attended Friday's ceremony dressed in his blue Air Force uniform. To show their support, 10 airmen from Luke Air Force Base came to watch Wale-Aremu take the oath. Wale-Aremu, a Maryland resident, said he joined the Air Force shortly after coming to the United States two years ago.

Rodriguez, a Valley resident, joined the Army after graduating from Tolleson Union High School and completing a one-year massage therapy program at Apollo College.

"I felt like I had a duty toward this country. It was something I had to do," said Rodriguez, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., and was home visiting family.

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